



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE  
GOVERNOR

EUGENE A. CONTI, JR.  
SECRETARY

September 2, 2011

Mr. Bill Biddlecome  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Field Office  
Post Office Box 1000  
Washington, NC 27889-1000

Dear Mr. Biddlecome:

**SUBJECT: Emergency Section 404 Nationwide Permit 23 and Section 401 General Water Quality Certification:** Emergency fill and temporary bridge construction of breach to restore NC 12 on Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge in Dare County, North Carolina, WBS Element 13201.1028011.

Due to the recent damage on NC 12 in Dare County caused by Hurricane Irene on August 27, 2011, and the resulting state and federal disaster declarations, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) request authorization for emergency reconstruction of NC 12 at the breach area between Oregon Inlet and Rodanthe, NC.

The purpose of this letter is to request approval for a Section 404 Nationwide 23 Permit and Section 401 General Water Quality Certification. In addition to the cover letter and PCN Form, this application package includes the following for this emergency project: design plans, project aerial, and USFWS correspondence. A programmatic Categorical Exclusion is being completed and will be forwarded under separate cover.

The breach area is located within the Pea Island Refuge. Approximate lat/long is 35.683636/-75.483960. At this location the main breach extends from the ocean to the sound and varies from approximately 140' to 250' wide. Large fingers of erosion also extend off the main breach in both northerly and southerly directions crossing NC 12 in various locations. As shown on the attached drawings NCDOT is proposing to place a temporary 650' bridge consisting of a 250' span over the main breach within the existing right of way. The main breach span will have a crown point elevation of approximately 15.0. Additional 200' approach spans on each end of the main span will taper vertically to an approximate elevation of 10.0. The roadway grade will be required to transition up vertically approximately 5' to meet the approach span elevation. There may be a temporary construction bridge, approximately 200 feet long with 20-foot spans. The roadway will also require a slight horizontal

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**LOCATION:**  
1020 BIRCH RIDGE DRIVE  
RALEIGH NC 27610-4328

slight horizontal realignment within the existing right of way to match the tangential bridge that is being placed within the existing circular roadway alignment. Shoring of the roadway embankment will be required approximately 200' from the end of the approaches within the proposed horizontal and/or vertical realignment. All attempts will be made to keep this shoring within the existing right of way. Once outside the horizontal and vertical shifts additional sandbag shoring will be placed within washed out areas as shown, to secure the proposed roadway embankment. Approach shoring as shown is approximately 1,160 LF. Sandbag shoring as shown will be approximately 1,550 LF (maximum). Preliminary earthwork calculations reveal 10,000CY of embankment will be brought to the site to complete construction.

Regulatory Approvals:

Section 404: All aspects of this project are being processed by the Federal Highway Administration as a "Categorical Exclusion" in accordance with 23 CFR 771.115(b). The NCDOT requests that these activities be authorized by a Nationwide Permit 23 (72 CFR; 11092-11198, March 12, 2007).

Section 401: We anticipate 401 General Certification number 3701 will apply to this project.

In addition to the above mentioned application, a Coastal Area Management Act Major Development Permit and Special Use Permits from the US Fish and Wildlife Service are also being applied for under separate cover.

A copy of this permit application and its distribution list will be posted on the NCDOT website at: <http://www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/pe/neu/permit.html>

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Tyler Stanton at 919-707-6156 or [tstanton@ncdot.gov](mailto:tstanton@ncdot.gov).

Sincerely,



*for* Gregory J. Thorpe, Ph.D., Branch Manager  
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch

cc:  
NCDOT Permit Application Standard Distribution List